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OCI No. 0504/66

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BIWEEKLY REPORT

**COMMUNIST STATEMENTS REGARDING INTERVENTION
IN VIETNAM AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS**

15 February 1966

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.
15 February 1966

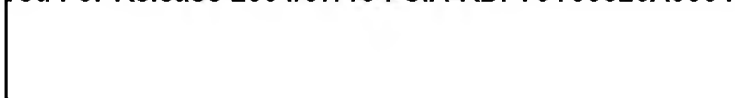
MEMORANDUM

Attached is a compilation of Communist statements on possible direct military intervention in the Vietnam situation, and on possible negotiations toward a settlement, received since our biweekly report (OCI No. 1057/66) issued 1 February 1966.

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SUMMARY

NEGOTIATIONS

USSR Moscow's position on the subject of negotiations has not changed in the last two weeks.

China Peking has blasted the US move to take the Vietnam problem to the UN, and has reiterated its opposition to any negotiated settlement except on the Communist terms.

DRV Hanoi's standard position of a settlement of the Vietnam war was expounded in a letter to the socialist countries and other nations interested in the Vietnam war. In his letter, Ho restated Hanoi's determination to continue the war until a settlement can be reached on Communist terms. He also attempted to counter the recent US peace moves with

INTERVENTION

The Soviet Union's public expressions of support for the DRV have given no indication of change in Moscow's position.

The Chinese are continuing their generalized public statements of support for Vietnam, which continue to imply that Peking will not take the lead in provoking a war with the US. Chinese private and public statements emphasize that the possibility of a US attack on China is increasing with the escalation of the war in Vietnam but Peking probably does not regard war with the US as likely at least this summer.

There have been no significant statements by the North Vietnamese during this period on the subject on intervention.

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NEGOTIATIONS

INTERVENTION

DRV Cont'd with the claim that they were all a "trick" designed to cover up further American "aggressive action" in South Vietnam.

In addition, recent statements from Hanoi while restating the four-point solution to the war have laid heavy emphasis on the role of the Front in any settlement. They have pointed out that recognition of the Front and its programme is a "very important" part of the four-point settlement and as such must be recognized by the US.

NFLSV The Liberation Front has over the past two weeks offered only the standard reiteration of its position on settling the war. It has praised President Ho Chi Minh's letter and reiterated its determination to continue the war until a settlement can be achieved on Communist terms.

There have been no significant statements by the Liberation Front during this period on the subject of intervention.

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COMMUNIST STATEMENTS ON INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM

Selected Soviet Statements on Intervention

<u>Selected Soviet Public Statements</u>	<u>Selected Soviet Private Statements</u>	<u>Comments</u>
31 January 1966: An Izvestia commentator reiterated the standard Soviet line that, "the Soviet people have always rendered and will go on rendering assistance to the fraternal people of Vietnam."		
31 January 1966: A Soviet Government statement on the US resumption of bombing repeated the Soviet pledge that, "true to its internationalist duty the Soviet Union will continue giving the DRV the necessary aid and support."		
1 February 1966: Soviet President Podgorny, in reply to Ho Chi Minh's message of 24 January, stated, "the Soviet Union will continue rendering assistance to the fraternal DRV in strengthening its defense capacity."		The Soviet Union's public expressions of support for the DRV have given no indication of change in its position.

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Selected Chinese Communist References to Intervention

Selected Chinese
Public Statements

Selected Chinese
Private Statements

Comments

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Chou's reported comments parallel Peking's propaganda predictions of US plans for escalating the war and their ultimate failure. The time-able, however, is new and suggests that the Chinese do not regard war with the US as likely at least until this summer.

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fail. Chou asserted that in July or August, the US would launch a "gigantic offensive" and might even violate Chinese borders, but he declared that the US would never win because China would "fight to the last man" and might lose battles but would never lost a war.

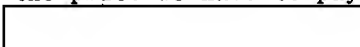
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30 January 1966: In a letter to Ho Chi Minh, Chairman Liu Shao-chi pledged that the Chinese people "will stand by the fraternal Vietnamese people in a joint struggle to thoroughly defeat the US aggressors...whatever may be the price we have to pay."

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Liu's pledge does not depart from the generalized promises of support Peking has been making since last fall.

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Selected Chinese
Public Statements

Selected Chinese
Private Statements

Comments

4 February 1966: Vice Premier Po I-po declared at a Peking reception that the Chinese people "resolutely support the Vietnamese people in their just struggle and will contribute their part in thoroughly defeating US imperialism." [redacted]

Another version of Peking's generalized pledge of support for the Vietnamese. [redacted]

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9 February 1966: Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Li Tien-yu declared "No matter how US imperialism threatens us, and no matter how far US imperialism may expand the war, we will unswervingly stand by the peoples of Korea, Vietnam and the whole world and do our part to defeat US imperialism thoroughly and bury that number one war criminal." [redacted]

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Selected Chinese Communist References to Negotiations

Selected Chinese
Public Statements

Selected Chinese
Private Statements

Comments

30 January 1966: The People's
Daily declared that the DRV
four-point formula "is the
only correct way to arrive at
a political settlement of the
Vietnam question...there can
be no bargaining about it."
It added, "if the US aggressors
truly desire a peaceful solu-
tion to the Vietnam question...
they must recognize the South
Vietnam National Front for
Liberation as the sole legiti-
mate representative of the
South Vietnamese people and
accepts its five-part state-
ment. This is another point
on which there is no room
for bargaining." [redacted]

2 February 1966: A Chinese
Foreign Ministry statement
denouncing both resumption
of bombing of the DRV and the
US move to put the Vietnam
question before the UN Se-
curity Council declared that
the Vietnamese can neither "be
deceived" by the US "peace
talks plot" nor "cowed" by US
escalation of the war. It as-
serted that the Vietnamese

Peking is reiterating its
standard hard line on nego-
tiations. The Chinese have
recently been bearing down
harder than ever on the theme
of North Vietnamese determina-
tion in the war. This appears
to be "insurance" against the
possibility Hanoi might soften
at some future date rather than
a reflection of Chinese con-
cern at any current development.

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Selected Chinese
Public Statements

Selected Chinese
Private Statements

Comments

25X1 2 February 1966 Cont'd: "have
frustrated" the US peace offen-
sive and are "fighting still
more valiantly than before."

25X1 2 February 1966: The People's
Daily blasted the US move to
raise the Vietnam problem at the
UN Security Council asserting
that the UN "has nothing at
all to do with the Vietnam
question" and that "no country
has any right to ask for a UN
discussion of this question."
The editorial pledged the "firm
support" of the Chinese people
for the 1 February DRV Foreign
Ministry statement rejecting
the competence of the UN to
deal with the question and
reiterated Peking's position
that the Vietnam question "can
only be settled in accordance
with the principles and spirit
of the Geneva Agreements" which
in present circumstances "find
their expression" in the DRV
four-point formula and the
Liberation Front five-part
statement.

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Selected North Vietnamese References to Negotiations

Selected DRV
Public Statements

Selected DRV
Private Statements

Comments

28 January 1966: DRV President Ho Chi Minh on 24 January sent a letter to the socialist countries and to other nations interested in the Vietnam situation. In part, the letter asserted that "So long as the US army of aggression still remains on our soil, our people will resolutely fight against it. If the US Government really wants a peaceful settlement, it must accept the four-point stand of the DRV Government and prove this by actual deeds; it must end unconditionally and for good all bombing raids and other war acts against the DRV. Only in this way can a political solution to the Vietnam problem be envisaged."

Ho's letter may, in part at least, had been intended to counter the recent US peace initiatives that brought American emissaries to many countries. His letter, which only restated the DRV position, was tailored to suit specific countries and to convince them of the correctness of the DRV position. For example, his letter to India addressed the Indian Government in its capacity as chairman of the ICC, while the letter to the UK spoke of the British role in the Geneva Conference.

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Pham Van Dong stated that "It is the unswerving stand of the DRV Government to strictly respect the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam and to correctly implement their basis provisions as correctly expressed in the

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Selected DRV
Public Statements

Selected DRV
Private Statements

Comments

25X1 28 January 1966 Cont'd: follow-
ing points; (these followed the
DRV's four points as made public
on 8 April 1965). [redacted]

25X1 29 January 1966: In a commentary
on President Ho Chi Minh's letter
to several countries in which he
insisted on the recognition of
the DRV's four-points for a set-
tlement of the war, Hanoi radio
stated that "the opinions ex-
pressed by President Ho in his
24 January letter have bespoken
the definite and unchanged
stand of our government and
people with regard to the set-
tlement of the Vietnam prob-
lem." [redacted]

30 January 1966: The North
Vietnamese army daily, Quan
Doi Nhan Dan, in an editorial
asserted that "To solve the
Vietnam question, the DRV
Government on many occasions
has expounded its four-point
stand, which embodied the basic
provisions of the 1954 Geneva
agreements on Vietnam. This
is the only basis to settle
the Vietnam question. This
stand is fully correct and
justified, and it has won warm
support from all progressive
people. The stand of the
Vietnamese people is imbued

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Selected DRV
Public Statements

Selected DRV
Private Statements

Comments

30 January 1966 Cont'd: with the brilliance of justice. US imperialism fears justice as an owl fears the sun. It does not recognize the words or indeed the four-point stand of the DRV Government and uses all possible vicious means to turn facts upside down." [redacted]

3 February 1966: The DRV Foreign Ministry issued a memorandum on the US peace effort. The document in part asserted that "if the US Government really wants a peaceful settlement, it must recognize the four point stand of the Government of the DRV and prove this by actual deeds. It must end unconditionally and for good all bombing raids and other acts against the DRV. Only in this way can a political solution to the Vietnam [redacted]

The memorandum offered a wrap-up of recent DRV statements on the situation in South Vietnam and attempted to undercut recent US efforts at achieving a negotiated settlement of the war. At the same time it emphasized that the whole four point stand of the DRV must be accepted by the US before any settlement of the conflict could be envisaged.

[redacted]
tained that "so long as bombing continued any discussions (on ending the war) were out of the question."
[redacted]

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Selected DRV
Public Statements

Selected DRV
Private Statements

Comments

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Hanoi has taken great pains throughout the last year to make evident its own position to nations that have offered to help bring the war to an end. Hanoi not ruled out such efforts but has insisted that they be made on DRV terms.

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Selected National Liberation Front References to Negotiations

Selected Liberation
Front Public Statements

Selected Liberation
Front Private Statements

Comments

30 January 1966: Liberation Radio in speaking of the "aggressive" US role in South Vietnam asserted that "The NFLSV, the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, clarified in stand in its statement of 22 March 1965. Any negotiations with US imperialism at the present time would be entirely in vain unless the US withdraws all US and satellite troops and means of war from South Vietnam, unless the South Vietnamese people's sacred rights to independence and democracy are not sacrificed to US imperialism by the traitorous Vietnamese country sellers, and unless the NFLSV, the only genuine representative of 14 million South Vietnamese people, can raise its decisive voice."

In recent weeks both Hanoi and the Liberation Front have emphasized that the role of the NFLSV will play a crucial role in any settlement of the war. The Communists have seen that this point is unpalatable to the US and have stressed that it must be accepted along with all other demands in the four points if a negotiated end to the war is to be achieved.

2 February 1966: Liberation Radio in speaking of the fifth anniversary of the Front which occurred last December asserted that "the most correct path for the settlement of the problem of Vietnam is the implementation of the five points of the historic 22 March 1965 statement of the NFLSV and the four points of the 8 April DRV Government statement. [REDACTED]"

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